

Accu-Facts

What I learned at the seminar

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Thanks but no Thanks

Many of you have invited me to join you on LinkedIn and Facebook and other social sites. Please don't feel neglected by my lack of response.

If you need me I'm sitting here at my desk OR Kristin will know when I'll be back. Meaning - - I don't do social media sites.

The effort and labour involved with tracking people on social sites is too onerous for my taste. Sounds snobby I know but, love me - love my warts ! 727-535-3118 -

Speaking of Which ..

As of 1999's Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, paid preparers are held to the same security standards from the Federal Trade Commission as are banks.

That's why that blurb appears at the bottom on each of my emails. Well, guess what? I'm now informed that information you send to us via email, of a sensitive, private nature, like SSNs or bank account numbers for refund deposits are not considered safe enough.

According to the FTC, unless the email is encrypted it is considered to be written in "plain text" and is vulnerable to interception.

Apparently, the email servers we all use are privately owned and their employees might have access to intercepting your email (hence the gov't spy scandals). When you send it to my server, my server also has employees that might be able to access your information. So, it's like writing your SSN on a postcard and dropping that off at the post office where any postal worker could flip it over and look at

the back of the postcard and get your ID # .

My tax software is encrypted so I will continue to use it to transmit returns to your email. Also, this year I can send the "permission slips" I have previously emailed to you via this encryption software too. So, I'm pretty secure on my end.

If you decide to send your tax records or other private information via email rather than snail mail please be aware of the possibility I mentioned above. An alternative would be to fax the data in instead. That might make you feel more secure.

If, having warned you about your own server's vulnerability you choose to email me sensitive material - that's your choice. I'm fine with that but from my end.... I'll continue to use the encryption software and no plain scanned in copies are allowed.

Non-custodial Parent Form

Don't forget that IRS does NOT recognize divorce decrees as giving the non-custodial parent the right to take the kid on your Tax Return. Get those Form 8332 signed by the parent the child lives with giving you permission to take the kid. Do it now before they file early and you're playing catch up.

Medicare Surtax Planning

2013 was the beginning of the Medicare Surtax on either large wages or large investors. You might have to make a change via your W4 for 2014 if this affects you. Remember, like all taxes, there is a penalty for underpayments. If your usual refund is NOT enough to cover your additional new

liability, then you'll have to increase your withholding through payroll or send in estimated coupons. I've talked the details to death - read your old newsletters to refresh your memory if you don't remember this.

Last Chance Saloon

The following Tax Laws are set to expire at the end of this year so make sure you get use out of them if you can.

- * Mortgage Insurance Premium Deduction
- * FI Sales Tax paid deduction
- * Energy Credit (Solar Panels only)
- * Educator \$250 deduction
- * Residential Debt Forgiveness EXCLUSION.

Try to get the banks to forgive the foreclosed upon mortgages BEFORE year end.

For Businesses: Bonus Depreciation and the huge Sec 179 (take all the depreciation up front) depreciation. In 2014 the Sec 179 is reduced to a paltry \$25K from \$500K.

Seniors Sign Up for Medicare

I just learned that if you qualify for Medicare and choose not to avail yourself of it because you are staying on to work past 65 and your work offers Hlth Ins, the SSA will impose a 10% per yr penalty that will continue for the rest of your life on the Medicare premium when you do sign up. So if you're delayed 3 years that's a 30% penalty till you DIE !

There is a way to get them to back off. Your employer is instructed to provide you with letters to explain that you HAVE insurance and SSA will abate the penalty if you provide them these letters. Let me know if this is your situation.